



Rockets



Big Idea

Use just a couple of common materials to create a loud chemical reaction.

Materials

- Film canister (with lid)
- Safety goggles
- Antacid tablets
- Water

Background Info

Antacid tablets contain citric acid and sodium bicarbonate. When you drop the tablet in water, they dissolve and then react and produce bubbles of carbon dioxide gas. The CO₂ gas builds up pressure inside the closed film canister and makes the lid pop off.

How Do You Do It?

- 1.) Find an open space (a big room or go outside)
- 2.) Break an antacid tablet in half
- 3.) Take the lid off the canister and fill canister about half-way up with water
- 4.) (Quickly) drop the tablet in and put lid back on canister
- 5.) Flip canister upside down, back away, and wait for launch

Plant Connections

Many plants (like the exploding cucumber and touch-me-nots) use natural explosions to disperse seeds
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOIHzi2h9a8>